

HISTORY

“Be it enacted, etc. as follows:

Section 1. The towns of Rockland, Abington and South Abington, may severally supply themselves and their respective inhabitants with water for the extinguishments of fires and for domestic and other purposes. Each of said towns within its respective limits may establish fountains and hydrants, re-locate or discontinue the same, may regulate the use of such water, and fix and collect rates to be paid for the use of the same.”

With these words and their acceptance in the Town of Rockland on June 12, 1885 and the Town of Abington on May 29, 1885, the journey began. The Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works was founded.

On July 2, 1886 Augustus H. Wright and Zenas M. Lane the Chairmen of the Construction Committee of the Water Works, for the Towns of Abington and Rockland respectively, took possession of the Great Sandy Bottom Pond in the Town of Pembroke.

With the Joint Board now owning the water rights to the Great Sandy Bottom Pond the monumental task of conveying the water from Pembroke to the Towns of Abington and Rockland lay ahead. At a cost of approximately \$140,000.00, thirty-three thousand feet of water main (from Pembroke to Summer Street on the Abington/Rockland town line), a pumping station at the Great Sandy Bottom Pond, and a pumping station on Beech Hill were furnished. The initial estimate of water to be delivered was approximately 1.5 million gallons per day for 25,000 people.

Once the water entered the Rockland and Abington systems it was delivered to the residents by means of the town’s individual water systems. This method still exists today where the Joint Water Works treats and supplies the drinking water, the Abington Water Department and the Rockland Water Department deliver the product.

Since then the Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works has developed the Hingham Street Reservoir, a man made water body that is currently undergoing an expansion project, the John Hannigan Water Treatment Plant, servicing the reservoir, the Myers Avenue well field, along with the Witherall Water Treatment Plant to service the wells.

Each town annually formulizes and approves a water department budget. Within the budget is a line item that supports the Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works. The Joint Water Works exist through this combined line item and is presided over by the Abington Water Commissioners and the Rockland Water Commissioners whom sit jointly on the Water Works Board.

The foresight of our forefathers from 1885, the diligent efforts of the Water Works Professionals today, and every individual in between have shaped this great entity we proudly call the “ABINGTON/ROCKLAND JOINT WATER WORKS”.